

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

TYRONE NOEL NUNN,

Plaintiff,

v.

ELY STATE PRISON, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:24-cv-01091-GMN-NJK

ORDER

On June 12, 2024, *pro se* plaintiff Tyrone Nunn, an inmate in the custody of the Nevada Department of Corrections, submitted numerous documents totaling 143 pages. Docket No. 1-1. Plaintiff's initiating documents do not constitute a complaint. Further, Plaintiff has neither paid the full \$405 filing fee for this action nor applied to proceed *in forma pauperis*. See Docket No. 1. The Court will grant Plaintiff an extension of time to file a single, signed complaint that complies with the rules governing those pleadings, and to either pay the full filing fee or apply for *in forma pauperis* status.

I. DISCUSSION

A. Plaintiff must file a single, signed complaint.

The Court advises Plaintiff of the following requirements in order to facilitate the filing of a single complaint that is properly formatted and signed. Generally, a complaint must contain "a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the [plaintiff] is entitled to relief" and "a demand for the relief sought, which may include relief in the alternative or different types of relief." Fed. R. Civ. P. 8. "Each allegation must be simple, concise, and direct." Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(d)(1). A party must state its claims or defenses in numbered paragraphs, each limited as far as practicable to a single set of circumstances." Fed. R. Civ. P. 10(b). "[E]ach claim founded on a separate transaction or occurrence . . . must be stated in a separate count." *Id.*

1 The function of the complaint is not to list every single fact relating to the plaintiff's claims.
 2 A basic lawsuit is a single claim against a single defendant. FRCP 18(a) allows a plaintiff to add
 3 multiple claims to the lawsuit when they are against the same defendant. FRCP 20(a)(2) allows a
 4 plaintiff to join multiple defendants to a lawsuit where the right to relief arises out of the same
 5 "transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions" and "any question of law or fact common to all
 6 defendants will arise in the action." Unrelated claims that involve different defendants, however,
 7 must be brought in separate lawsuits. *See George v. Smith*, 507 F.3d 605, 607 (7th Cir. 2007)
 8 (holding that "[a] buckshot complaint that would be rejected if filed by a free person—say, a suit
 9 complaining that A defrauded the plaintiff, B defamed him, C punched him, D failed to pay a debt,
 10 and E infringed his copyright, all in different transactions—should be rejected if filed by a
 11 prisoner"). This rule is not only intended to avoid confusion that arises out of bloated lawsuits,
 12 but also to ensure that inmates pay the required filing fees for their lawsuits and prevent inmates
 13 from circumventing the three strikes rule under the Prison Litigation Reform Act. 28 U.S.C.
 14 § 1915(g).

15 Additionally, "[a] civil-rights complaint filed by a person who is not represented by an
 16 attorney must be submitted on the form provided by this Court or must be legible and contain
 17 substantially all the information called for by the Court's form." LSR 2-1. The complaint must
 18 be signed personally by the unrepresented party. Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(a). Further, "[p]laintiffs
 19 generally have 'no right to maintain two separate actions involving the same subject matter at the
 20 same time in the same court and against the same defendant.'" *Adams v. Cal. Dept. of Health*
 21 *Servs.*, 487 F.3d 684, 688 (9th Cir. 2007), *overruled on other grounds by Taylor v. Sturgell*, 553
 22 U.S. 880 (2008), (quoting *Walton v. Eaton Corp.*, 563 F.2d 66, 70 (3d Cir. 1977)). Duplicative
 23 litigation by a litigant who is proceeding under *in forma pauperis* status can be dismissed as
 24 malicious and thus constitute a strike under the Prison Litigation Reform Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1915.
 25 *See Cato v. United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1105 n.2 (9th Cir. 1995).

26 It is not clear whether any of the documents Plaintiff filed are intended to constitute a
 27 complaint. Plaintiff's initial filing includes over 15 different documents, some with long and
 28

1 confusing titles. *See generally* Docket No. 1-1. Although many of the documents include “Civil
 2 Rights Complaint” or “Complaint” in the title, each document concerns different issues and
 3 defendants. No document contains substantially all the information required by the procedural
 4 rules governing the form and contents for filing a proper complaint. Other documents appear to
 5 be certificates of service, motions, and evidence. Further complicating matters, many of the pages
 6 are illegible. The Court thus disregards Plaintiff’s initial collection of documents.

7 If Plaintiff wants to proceed with this action, he must file a single, signed complaint that is
 8 legible, concerns matters that he is not pursuing in any other lawsuit, and brings only those claims
 9 and defendants that are sufficiently related to be brought in a single action. The complaint must
 10 be on this Court’s approved civil-rights form or contain substantially all the information called for
 11 by the form and it may not exceed 30 pages. Plaintiff is cautioned that the Court may disregard
 12 any document that does not comply with these requirements.

13 **B. Plaintiff must either pay the filing fee or apply for pauper status.**

14 The United States District Court for the District of Nevada must collect filing fees from
 15 parties initiating civil actions. 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). As of December 1, 2023, the fee for filing a
 16 civil-rights action is \$405, which includes the \$350 filing fee and the \$55 administrative fee. *See*
 17 28 U.S.C. § 1914(b). “Any person who is unable to prepay the fees in a civil case may apply to
 18 the court for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*.” LSR 1-1. For an inmate to apply for *in forma*
 19 *pauperis* status, the inmate must submit **all three** of the following documents to the Court: (1) a
 20 completed **Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis for Inmate**, which is pages 1–3 of the
 21 Court’s approved form, that is properly signed by the inmate twice on page 3; (2) a completed
 22 **Financial Certificate**, which is page 4 of the Court’s approved form, that is properly signed by
 23 both the inmate and a prison or jail official; and (3) a copy of the **inmate’s prison or jail trust**
 24 **fund account statement for the previous six-month period**. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1)–(2);
 25 LSR 1-2. *In forma pauperis* status does not relieve an inmate of his or her obligation to pay the
 26 filing fee, it just means that the inmate can pay the fee in installments. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b).

